

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the final Office Action dated February 22, 2010, of which this Reply is filed within two month. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-8 and 10-18. No new matter is entered by the amendments. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 and 10-18 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully disagree; however, Applicants amend the claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable aspects of the claims.

In particular, Applicants amend the system claims to include additional computing hardware for each component and the entire system. For example, Applicants similarly amend independent claims 1 and 10 to include “the portal including a programmed processor for processing digital data, a memory coupled to the processor for storing digital data, an input digitizer coupled to the processor for inputting digital data, the application stored in the memory and accessible by the processor for directing processing of digital data by the processor, a display coupled to the processor and memory for displaying information derived from digital data processed by the processor, wherein the portal communicates with a plurality of worker computing utilities, a plurality of handler computing systems and a dispatcher computing system.” Applicants also amend independent claim 12 to include each step being performed “by a computer based acquisition system.”

Dependent claims 2-8, 11 and 13-18 variously depend from independent claims 1, 10 and 12, so Applicants assert that claims 2-8, 11 and 13-18 are cured for the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 and 10-18 35 U.S.C. § 112 as having indefinite relationships between the elements. Applicants respectfully disagree; however, Applicants amend the claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable aspects of the claims. In particular, Applicants amend the system claims to clarify that the system includes all listed components and the portal communicates with the various components. For example, Applicants similarly amend independent claims 1 and 10 to include “wherein the portal communicates with a plurality of worker computing utilities, a plurality of handler computing systems and a dispatcher computing system.” Applicants also amend claim 12 to further clarify that the “computer based acquisition system” includes the various components and performs each step.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 22, 2010

By: 

Howard I. Sobelman
Reg. No. 39,038

SNELL & WILMER, L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202
Phone: (602) 382-6228
Fax: (602) 382-6070
Email: hsobelman@swlaw.com